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Botanical Notes.

Poppies on Railway Embankments. The horticulturists who do so much to render summer railway travel agreeable in the more settled parts of the country by their ingenuity and taste, in decorating the grounds about the stations, my perhaps be interested to know that in the opinion of M. Cambier, chief roadmaster of the French Government railways, the best plant yet discovered for consolidating, by the interlacing of its roots, the loose soil of a newly made embankment is the double poppy. Ten years' trial has enabled M. Cambier, as he says, to guarantee that the poppy will be found far more efficient for this purpose than any of the grasses or clovers usually employed; and while these require several months for the development of their comparatively feeble roots, the double poppy germinates in a few days, and in two weeks grows enough to give some protection to the slope, while at the end of three or four months the roots, which are ten or twelve inches long, are found to have interlaced so as to retain the earth far more firmly than those of any grass or grain. Although the plant is an annual, it sows itself after the first year, and with a little care the bank is always in good condition. In France the double poppy is perfectly hardy, and can be sown at almost any time from March to November. With us it is also said to be quite hardy, and a long embankment covered through the later summer and autumn with the dazzling scarlet blossoms contrasted with green grass at the foot of the slope, would have a most striking effect.—*American Architect.*

Specimens of Cuscuta wanted. Prof. C. E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb., desires to obtain by exchange or purchase, specimens of *Cuscutæ* in flower or fruit.

Queer Books in a German Library. One of the most curiously original collection of books in any library is said to be a botanical collection at Warsenstein, in Germany. At first sight the volumes appear like rough blocks of wood; but on closer examination it is found that each is a complete history of the particular tree which it represents. At the back of the book the bark has been removed from a space large enough to admit the scientific and the common name of the tree as a title. One side

is formed from the split wood of the tree, showing its grain and natural fracture ; the other shows the wood when worked smooth and varnished. One end shows the grain as left by the saw, and the other the finely polished wood. On opening the book one finds the fruit, seeds, leaves, and other products of the tree, the moss which usually grows upon its trunk, and the insects which feed upon the various parts of the tree. To all this is added a well printed description of the habits, usual location, and manner of growth of the tree.—*London Daily News*.

Proceedings of the Club.

The annual business meeting was held at Columbia College, Jan. 12th, Dr. J. S. Newberry in the chair.

The reports of officers were read and accepted.

The Recording Secretary reported 74 members on the roll.

The Curator reported 703 plants mounted during the past year, and 1,230 species in the Local Herbarium.

The Librarian announced 60 exchanges with the BULLETIN.

The following were elected active members: Miss Eliza Youmans, Miss M. B. Flint, and Messrs. E. E. Sterns, E. B. Southwicke and P. H. Dudley.

Messrs. I. C. Martindale, W. M. Canby, Randall Spaulding and Dr. A. W. Chapman were elected corresponding members.

Dr. N. L. Britton, Arthur Hollick and P. H. Dudley were appointed to inaugurate a series of public lectures on botanical subjects during the present year.

The following officers were elected for the current year: President, Dr. J. S. Newberry; Vice-President, Thomas Hogg; Treasurer, Wm. H. Rudkin; Recording Secretary, Arthur Hollick; Corresponding Secretary, Maria O. Steele; Editor, Elizabeth G. Britton; Associate Editor, F. J. H. Merrill; Curator, M. O. Steele; Librarian, N. L. Britton.

The following standing committees were appointed: *Finance*, John L. Wall, J. O. Poggenburg; *Admissions*, Benjamin Braman, Joseph Schrenk; *Library and Herbarium*, N. L. Britton, Miss M. O. Steele, Miss H. C. Gaskin, Miss Alice Rich.

Rev. L. H. Lighthipe read a list of rarer plants collected in New Jersey.